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REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application as amended is requested. By this amendment, claims 1, 10, and 19 have been amended, claims 18 and 40 have been cancelled, and claims 2-3, 14, and 20-39 were previously cancelled. Claims 1, 4-13, 15-17, and 19 remain in the application.

REJECTION OF CLAIM 40 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 40 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite.

Claim 40 has been cancelled.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection of claim 40 under 35 U.S.C. 112 has been overcome by the amendment and remarks.

REJECTION OF CLAIM 40 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 40 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Isikawa et al. (6,278,231).

Claim 40 has been cancelled.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection of claims 1, 4, 6-8, 12, and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. 102 has been overcome by the amendment and remarks.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-7, 9-14, AND 16-17 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-7, 9-14, and 16-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Xu et al. (5,872,422) in view of Lee et al. (6,514,113).

The limitations of allowed claim 18 have been inserted into claim 1; therefore, claim 1 is now believed allowable, as well as the claims dependent therefrom.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection of claims 1-7, 9-14, and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103 has been overcome by the amendment and remarks.

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Claims 18 and 19 have been identified as being allowable if rewritten as independent claims. Claim 18 has been essentially rewritten as independent by inserting the limitations thereof into claim 1. Claim 19 now depends from claim 1.

The remaining cited references have been reviewed and are not believed to affect the patentability of the claims as amended.

No amendment made herein was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated; and no amendment made herein was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to deposit account #502117.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

DEAN ET AL.

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